



**LAMAR INSTITUTE  
OF TECHNOLOGY**

**GOVT\_2305 9M4**

**INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Instructor:** Joshua N. Longmire, Ph.D.

**Email:** [jlongmire@eagle.lit.edu](mailto:jlongmire@eagle.lit.edu)

**Office Location:** Zoom

**Office Hours:** By Appointment

**CREDIT**

3 Semester Credit Hours (3 hours lecture, 0 hours lab)

**MODE OF INSTRUCTION**

Online

**PREREQUISITE/CO-REQUISITE:**

TSI Complete for Reading

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Origin and development of the U.S. Constitution; structure and powers of the national government including the legislative, executive, and judicial branches; federalism; political participation; the national election process; public policy; civil liberties and civil rights.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to

- Explain the origin and development of constitutional democracy in the United States.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the federal system.
- Describe separation of powers and checks and balances in both theory and practice.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of the federal government.
- Evaluate the role of public opinion, interest groups, and political parties in the political system.
- Analyze the election process.
- Describe the rights and responsibilities of citizens.
- Analyze issues and policies in U.S. politics.

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND MATERIALS**

- American Government, 3rd Edition
  - Krutz, Waskiewicz; Free Web Version
  - ISBN-13: 978-1-951693-38-1
  - <https://openstax.org/details/books/american-government-3e>

## **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Class discussion board responses will serve as an attendance record for the course. Each student is required to make one entry on the class discussion board thread when one is in the week's folder. Class discussion board participation is required but not graded, however, failure to participate on the class discussion boards will result in 2 points off your final grade for EACH discussion board topic that is missed.

## **DROP POLICY**

If you wish to drop a course, you are responsible for initiating and completing the drop process by the specified drop date as listed on the Academic Calendar. If you stop coming to class and fail to drop the course, you will earn an "F" in the course.

## **STUDENT EXPECTED TIME REQUIREMENT**

For every hour in class (or unit of credit), students should expect to spend at least two to three hours per week studying and completing assignments. For a 3-credit-hour class, students should prepare to allocate approximately six to nine hours per week outside of class in a 16- week session OR approximately twelve to eighteen hours in an 8-week session. Online/Hybrid students should expect to spend at least as much time in this course as in the traditional, face- to-face class.

## **Course Evaluation**

Final Grades will be calculated according to the following criteria:

- Exams 50%
- Daily Assignment 30%
- Core Assessments: 20%
  - Below is the breakdown of the assignment:
    - **Team Introduction:** Worth 1% if submitted; failure to submit will result in a 10% penalty.
    - **Selection of Topic:** Worth 1% if submitted; failure to submit will result in a 10% penalty.
    - **Rough Draft:** Worth 8% if submitted; failure to submit will result in a 30% penalty.
    - **Final Draft:** 60%
    - **Group Presentation:** 30%

## **GRADING SCALE (LIT does not use +/- grading scales)**

- 90-100 A
- 80-89 B
- 70-79 C
- 60-69 D
- 0-59 F

## **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**

Students found to be committing academic dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism, or collusion) may receive disciplinary action. Students need to familiarize themselves with the institution's Academic Dishonesty Policy available in the Student Catalog & Handbook at <http://catalog.lit.edu/content.php?catoid=3&navoid=80#academic-dishonesty>.

## **TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS**

The latest technical requirements, including hardware, compatible browsers, operating systems, etc. can be online at <https://lit.edu/online-learning/online-learning-minimum-computer-requirements>. A functional broadband internet connection, such as DSL, cable, or WiFi is necessary to maximize the use of online technology and resources.

## **DISABILITIES STATEMENT**

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are federal anti-discrimination statutes that provide comprehensive civil rights for persons with disabilities. LIT provides reasonable accommodations as defined in the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, to students with a diagnosed disability. The Special Populations Office is located in the Eagles' Nest Room 129 and helps foster a supportive and inclusive educational environment by maintaining partnerships with faculty and staff, as well as promoting awareness among all members of the Lamar Institute of Technology community. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Special Populations Coordinator at (409)-951-5708 or email [specialpopulations@lit.edu](mailto:specialpopulations@lit.edu). You may also visit the online resource at [Special Populations - Lamar Institute of Technology \(lit.edu\)](#).

## **STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT STATEMENT**

It is the responsibility of all registered Lamar Institute of Technology students to access, read, understand and abide by all published policies, regulations, and procedures listed in the *LIT Catalog and Student Handbook*. The *LIT Catalog and Student Handbook* may be accessed at [www.lit.edu](http://www.lit.edu). Please note that the online version of the *LIT Catalog and Student Handbook* supersedes all other versions of the same document.

## **STARFISH**

LIT utilizes an early alert system called Starfish. Throughout the semester, you may receive emails from Starfish regarding your course grades, attendance, or academic performance. Faculty members record student attendance, raise flags and kudos to express concern or give praise, and you can make an appointment with faculty and staff all through the Starfish home page. You can also login to Blackboard or MyLIT and click on the Starfish link to view academic alerts and detailed information. It is the responsibility of the student to pay attention to these emails and information in Starfish and consider taking the recommended actions. Starfish is used to help you be a successful student at LIT.

## **ADDITIONAL COURSE POLICIES/INFORMATION**

### **Attendance Policy**

- Regular Blackboard interaction is expected of all students; in fact it is necessary if you want to pass. Conflicting work schedules, appointments, and other activities are not acceptable excuses for missing assignments; plan for these accordingly.
- YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE for completing the work assigned in Blackboard. I will not be giving regular reminders for your assignments.
- This is a college class; you are expected to be able to keep up on your own. Class is independent of, but also connected to, Blackboard.
- What is on Blackboard is working through the book, all of the activities and quizzes are based on the book. What happens in class is digging deeper with critical thinking discussions utilizing social and personal skills. We will discuss the same topics as are covered on Blackboard, but usually after the chapter on Blackboard is completed. This is to ensure a proper base of knowledge for the student before deeper discussion.
- Depending on the depth we may not always be in sync with Blackboard. If we are too out of sync I may adjust the calendar as I deem necessary.

### **CLASS DECORUM**

- Be respectful of your classmates. There are many different opinions, and rude or aggressive behavior will not be tolerated. We will be discussing different topics, and there are a few times when you are required to comment on others. There may come a point we discuss “touchy” topics. If you cannot handle the discussion, or someone else’s opinions/beliefs, then please walk away from your computer and come back later to comment on someone else’s. Personal attacks, broad generalizations and other such criticisms will not be allowed.
- What is posted in Class discussions is for your class only. Sharing of other students’ discussions publicly, anywhere, will result in being reported to the department.

### **Words of Advice**

1. If you are having issues, communicate with Communication is key!!!
2. Please do not wait to the last minute to do the There is a due date for each module.
3. It is a DUE date not a DO Everything is available on Day 1, but locks closed after the Due date.
4. Please Do Not Wait Until The Last Minute To Do The Work
5. PLEASE DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO DO THE WORK – (I cannot stress this enough)

6. Engage in Class
7. A student found responsible for an act of academic dishonesty by the Dean of Students will receive an appropriate academic penalty that could range from a 0 on the assignment to an F for the course grade.
8. The best way to contact me is via email.
  1. All email must be from the student's LIT email account or through Blackboard.
  2. During the week, I strive to respond to student emails within 24 - 48 hours; emails sent after noon on Fridays will be responded to by the following Monday afternoon.
9. If YOU Need Help: First, send me an email. Then, send me another if it's an emergency and I haven't answered. That's what I am here for: professors are there to help and talk with you about the course. I urge you to take advantage of me.

### **Late Work**

- Materials are due on the date specified on the syllabus and due in the format specified. Most assignments will close after the due date. Failure to submit an assignment on time will result in a zero, I will not reopen assignments because you failed to complete it.
- Materials submitted late or incorrectly will be penalized 1 letter grade (10%) immediately, with an additional letter grade deduction every day they are late. This is to be fair to your classmates: why should you get more time to complete coursework than they do and not be penalized?
- Computer problems are NOT a valid excuse for submitting materials late. You should have a back-up plan; a secondary place with Wi-Fi, or Blackboard on your phone, etc. You should be saving your data (to Google Drive, a flash drive, Dropbox or any sort of backup measure), so you do not lose your data. If you choose not to back-up your data daily / hourly, or to wait until the last minute, you are playing with fire and have only yourself to blame when you get burned.

### **Email Communication**

- My email – [jlongmire@eagle.lit.edu](mailto:jlongmire@eagle.lit.edu)
- You must put your full name and sections on all email correspondence.
- Emails also MUST come from your LIT account, or through Blackboard.
- Emails sent from gmail/Hotmail/ymail/etc, or sent without a name will only receive a reply reminding you to use your LIT email.

### **Scholastic Dishonesty:**

- It is the policy that cheating, and plagiarism will not be tolerated under any circumstances. Violations will result in immediate disciplinary action to the fullest extent of the policy according to the current LIT Student Handbook.

- This means all work is independent unless otherwise stated. This means all work is to be your own, unless otherwise stated.
- You should never cut paste answers from anywhere/anyone, unless specifically directed to.
- A student found responsible for an act of academic dishonesty by the Dean of Students will receive an appropriate academic penalty. That penalty could range from a 0 on the assignment to an F for the course grade.

### **Final Notes on this Syllabus**

- Course Calendar: Readings, assignments, and exam dates can be found on the last pages of this syllabus.
- Dr. Longmire reserves the right to make changes or modifications, if necessary, to this syllabus. Any major changes or modifications will be provided to the students in printed form and/or emailed to the class.

<b>Unit</b>	<b>DUE DATE</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>READINGS</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENTS</b>
<b>Unit 1</b>	1/26/25	<b>Course Introduction &amp; Political Socialization</b>	<b>Chapter 1: American Government and Civic Engagement</b>	Political Socialization Assignment
				Section 1: Discussion - Political Socialization
	2/2/25	<b>Roots of the Revolution</b>	<b>Chapter 2: The Constitution and Its Origins</b>	Section 2: Quiz - Roots of the Revolution
				Section 2: Discussion - Roots of the Revolution
	2/9/25	<b>The Constitution</b>	<b>Chapter 2: The Constitution and Its Origins</b>	Articles of Confederation & Constitution Venn Assignment
Section 3: Discussion - The Constitution of the United States				
2/16/25	<b>Unit I Exam (Sections 1-3)</b>	<b>Sections 1 - 3</b>		
<b>Semester Group Project</b>	2/16/25	<b>Team Introductions and Correspondence</b>		
<b>Unit 2</b>	2/23/25	<b>Landmark Supreme Court Cases</b>		Section 5: Quiz - Landmark Supreme Court Cases
				Section 5: Discussion - Landmark Supreme Court Cases
	3/2/25	<b>Civil Liberties and Civil Rights</b>	<b>Chapter 4: Civil Liberties / Chapter 5: Civil Rights</b>	Section 6: Discussion - Civil Liberties/Rights
				Know Your Rights Assignment
<b>Semester Group Project</b>	2/16/25	<b>Selection of Subject and Topics of Interest</b>		
<b>Unit 2</b>	3/9/25	<b>Federalism</b>	<b>Chapter 3: American Federalism</b>	Section 7: Quiz - Federalism
				Section 7: Discussion - Federalism
	3/10-16/2025	<b>Spring Break</b>		
	3/23/25	<b>Exam 2 (Sections 5-7)</b>	<b>Sections 5 - 7</b>	

	3/30/25	<b>Civil Rights Response Paper</b>		1000-word minimum, double-spaced, 12-point font.
<b>Semester Group Project</b>	3/30/25	<b>Rough Draft</b>		
<b>Unit 3</b>	4/6/25	<b>The Legislature (Congress)</b>	<b>Chapter 11: Congress</b>	Section 8: Discussion - The Legislature Congressman Response Upload
	4/13/25	<b>The Executive (President)</b>	<b>Chapter 12: The Presidency</b>	Section 9: Quiz - The Executive Branch Section 9: Discussion - The Executive
	4/20/25	<b>The Judicial Branch</b>	<b>Chapter 13: The Courts</b>	Section 10: Discussion - The Judiciary
	4/20/25	<b>Patents, Monopolies, and Interest Group Discussion</b>		Section 11 Discussions: Patents, Monopolies, and Interest Group Discussion
	4/27/25	<b>Unit 3 Exam (Sections 8-11)</b>	<b>Sections 8 - 11</b>	
	5/4/24	<b>Branches of Government Response Paper</b>		1200-word minimum, double-spaced, 12-point font.
<b>Semester Group Project</b>	5/4/24	<b>Final Draft</b>		
	5/4/25	<b>Group Presentations</b>		
	5/4/25	<b>Self and Peer Participation Evaluation</b>		
<b>Unit 4</b>	5/9/25	<b>Public Opinion, Media, Polls</b>	<b>Chapter 8: The Media</b>	Section 12: Discussion - Media and Polling Media Assessment
	5/9/25	<b>Political Parties</b>	<b>Chapter 9: Political Parties</b>	Section 13: Assignment - Political Parties
	5/9/25	<b>Screenshot of Submitted Course Evaluation</b>		
	5/12/25	<b>Unit 4 Exam</b>	<b>Sections 12 - 15</b>	



